



GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS

April 13, 2018

Senator McGuire, Chair
Senate Governance & Finance
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the California Swap Meet Owners Association (CSMA) we must respectfully remain opposed to SB 946 (Lara), as amended, a measure relating to street vendors.

CSMA was formed in 1973 to protect its members from discriminatory legislation and to educate state and local governments about the swap meet industry. We represent over 150 individual swap meets that include thousands of small business owners, or the vendors of our markets. Our vendors and markets have routinely been targeted with adverse legislation attempting to make the rules for our vendors different than any other retail type industry. We have fought for our vendors to ensure that the rules are the same for selling inside of our markets as they are for selling in a brick and mortar type store front, rather than discriminating against our vendors. Historically, our vendors are often first or second generation immigrants who speak English as a second language and are attempting to start a business. We take on the role of interfacing with the Department of Tax and Fee Administration and local governments to ensure our vendors have sellers permits and are paying taxes, have the necessary and appropriate city and county business licenses and health permits.

We appreciate the author's willingness to listen to our concerns with the bill, and while the recently amended version is helpful to allowing local governments to require sellers permits, health permits, and business licenses, there is still a concern of ensuring enforcement. Additionally, continuing to restrict a local government's ability to place appropriate limits on where vendors can locate, even if it is in front of a similar business, remains an issue for our association members. While we can appreciate the intended meaning for SB 946, the language in the bill remains problematic. For these reasons, CSMA must restfully oppose SB 946 and look forward to continuing to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Clay
Legislative Representative CSMA